The BAYONET

Vol. 2020, No 2 Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc. Newsletter Spring 2020

another year has come and gone.
our ranks are ever shrinking
am i the only one
to wonder why?

with thousands of alumni
still unknown
could it be
that we are sleeping?

our brothers are missing
but not forever
we can find them now
or see them in the hereafter!

looking for a friend
or a roommate
or a classmate
can be so daunting

it's easy to forget
the times we walked
together
to the Fort

or the times
we marched tours
together
on the blacktop

or ran on the
fields of victory
together
to win the game

perhaps we gathered
on cow paddy beach
the sun to soak.

tossed firecrackers
into the courtyard
and hid in our rooms
together.

we marched
and marched
and marched
everywhere
together

we ate
we studied
we lived
together

pushups
beer
Stuart Hall
didn't we do it all?

looking for a friend
or a roommate
or a classmate
can be so daunting

we grow
bigger
better
together

begin the search
google all
find those
who are missing

bring them
to reunion

we rejoice
at the lost
now found

will you commit?
to find just one

and
bring them
to reunion

~ bj d'Orsay

In our master list of every cadet that ever attended Augusta Military Academy, OUR school, there are 4,353 names of cadets from the 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's listed as "***Unknown***" We don't know if they are still living. We don't know where they live. We don't have an address, phone number, or email for them. They are lost to us.

About 1,500 alumni and friends will receive this Bayonet. We depend on these 1,500 to carry us forward into the future.

Can you imagine how much easier our task would be if we could find those 4.353 alumni to join our ranks?

Our reunions would be more fun, more memories would come to life, finances would become a non-issue (wouldn't that be nice?). So plan on coming to Reunion 2020 in April while you still can.

And reach out to your classmates that you are in contact with and encourage them to join us in April.

And if you're interested in searching for your long lost classmates, contact me and I can give you a list of those missing from the years you were at AMA.

Reunion 2020 is April 16 - 19. We have an incredible guest speaker Friday evening, Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Retired, former Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He will award scholarships during Saturday's lunch. We will recognize those who have passed away since last year during Founder's Day ceremony, and return to Stuart Hall for a dance with the ladies!

What more could you ask for?

Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Association, Inc.

Dear AMA Brothers & Friends,

Reunion will almost be here when you receive this Bayonet.

It should not be too late to attend Reunion 2020.

Our headquarters will be the Blackburn Inn, 301 Greenville Avenue, Stanton, Virginia. The email address is www.blacburn-inn.com, phone (540) 712-0601.

I look forward to seeing my classmates from 1970. Special thanks to **Jorge Rovirosa, '70**, for sending out a letter regarding our 50th anniversary. It's hard to believe that 50 years have gone by since my departure from AMA. My first two years at AMA I spent more time on the black top marching tours than anything.

I could never figure why, since I was so well behaved.

Anyway, I am excited and look forward to seeing folks we have not seen in many years.

We will offer a bus tours that will be announced Thursday night at the Staunton County Club. We have a 15-passenger van to visit and tour James Madison's Montpilier. The total package for the tour will be $40.00 to include lunch.

I want to also thank **Ed Click, '50**, for the many years of service to the Association both as a Board Member and President of the Alumni Association. Additionally, Ed served on the Foundation, as well as his selfless service to the United States Army as a military intelligence officer. ***Ed has my personal thanks*** for a superb job in support of all our Alumni and he definitely will be missed in the various leadership positions he has filled with AMA.

I'm sad to say a fixture of AMA **SSG Keith "Stride" Coleman, '72**, passed away last December. The military funeral took place in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The chaplain became a little concerned about reading some of his quotes. Nevertheless, they were read with some encouragement from Stride's friends and AMA classmates in attendance.. Stride was at every reunion and meeting of the association board and ***I will never forget him*** and the service he provided to AMA.

The organizations that keep our legacy alive continues to strive to raise money and look for volunteers and docents. The bottom line: if you did not donate during the fundraiser, please do it now. If you have not volunteered to be a docent do it now even if it is only for a day.

Look forward to seeing you all at the reunion.

Steve Trent
President AMA Alumni Association

Our museum has been open 20 years!

The BAYONET

Volume 2020, Number 2

Newsletter of the Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

PO BOX 100

Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100

Editor: B.J. d'Orsay, '70

The Bayonet is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to the AMA Museum, PO BOX 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100 or by email to Museum@AMAalumni.org

Please provide us with your 9-digit zip code! The Bayonet welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi and preferably in TIFF format. Printed color photos are also welcome.

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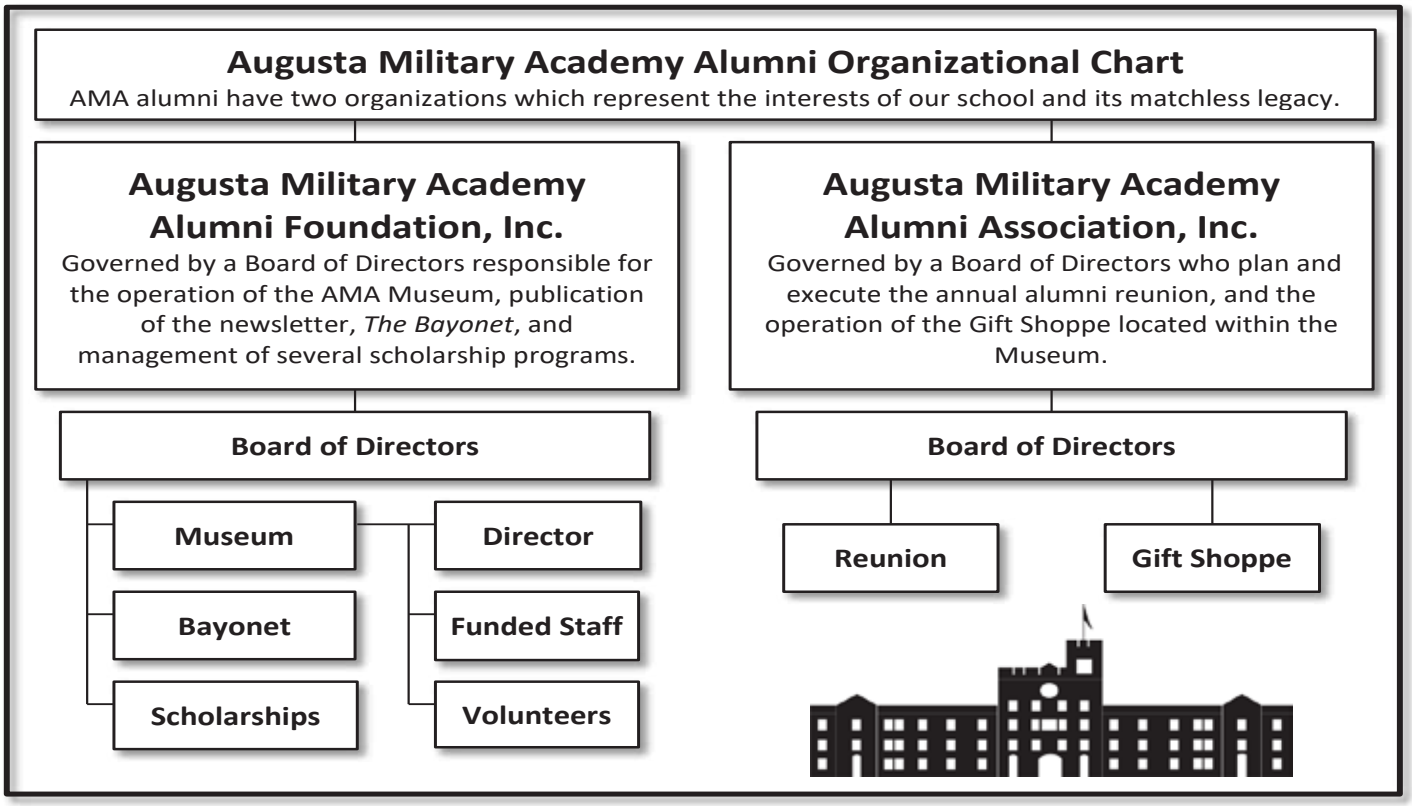


Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA Family and Friends,

We're celebrating the 20th Anniversary of The AMA Alumni Museum!

The Museum was dedicated at Reunion 1999 and it opened at Reunion 2000. There have been a few changes since then and many of our Alumni who helped make it a reality have passed on.

Our museum is a stand-alone operation supported by your generous contributions. We have a full-time staff who are dedicated to serving our Alumni and operating the museum in a professional manner.

We can all be proud of what we've accomplished. No other closed military school operates a full time, stand-alone museum. When our volunteer docents are at the museum, we have a living history museum that tells the story of daily life at AMA.

With the resignation of **Ed Click, '50**, from the Foundation's Board of Directors, **LTG (Retired) Larry Nicholson, '75,** was appointed to fill Ed's position on the Board of Directors. He will finish out Ed's term, which expires in 2022.

Welcome aboard, Larry!

I hope to see each of at Reunion 2020 and help us celebrate 20 years of serving our Alumni and our community!

E.E. Rogerville

Ed Rogerville
Chairman AMAAF

The Board of Directors of AMA Alumni Foundation welcome the participation of ALL alumni in the operation of our organization. We have several board meetings per year and most have teleconferencing capabilities. You are welcome to join us. We will have our annual membership meeting at 2:00 Saturday afternoon during this year's reunion. PLEASE attend this meeting. We value your input!

Celebrating 20 years of AMA's Museum Operation

We are excited to announce a new venue for our reunion along with lower costs by than 10%.

The Loft at Blackburn Inn serves as Hospitality Suite and headquarters for all activities.

This is the year to return 'home' and reunite with friends long past.

Museum and gift shoppe will be open daily 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lunch on us!*

Former day students of AMA are invited to join us for lunch on Saturday at the gym, **at no charge!** Your lunch is being generously provided for by Scott Travers, '70.

Day students were a special group of AMA cadets. They often received little or no recognition in the *RECALL or* the *Bayonet* during their time at AMA.

We wish to rectify that oversight. We want each of you to know that you are a valuable and important part of AMA's legacy.

We welcome you back to campus for the festivities on Saturday, April 18 at 12:00 for lunch and fellowship.

* Free lunch is only for former day students at AMA.

Saturday Lunch at the Gym
(Photo by Victor Gomez)

Golf

If Golf is your thing, gather Friday morning at the Waynesboro Country Club for a 9 AM Shotgun start. We will depart the Blackburn Inn at 8:00. It's a four-person scramble (Captain's choice) will all proceeds going to the AMA Alumni Foundation. Anyone is welcome to join in.

Use every player's tee shot twice. Lowest score wins! 1st, 2nd and last place prized will be awarded plus longest drive, closest to the pin, and best putt.

FEES: $100 per person which includes 18 holes, green tees, cart rental, box lunch, refreshments, goody bag, and a donation to the AMA Alumni Foundation.

Your help in gathering things for the goody bags is needed: golf balls, tees, towels, caps, umbrellas, even cash!

Contact Paul Poluito, '73, at cpp2q@virginia.edu

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

The annual Sporting Clay Shoot will be held on Friday April 17. Shooters will depart Blackburn Inn at approximately 9:00 AM enroute to the Flying Rabbit Range in Harrisonburg.

$25 is for registration which all goes to the Association. Targets, ammo and if necessary, gun rental will be handled by the Flying Rabbit. Folks can expect to spend about $50.

For more info, contact Blaine Clarke, '72, at blaine.clarke@comcast.net.

He can and will give you the full scoop, including costs, rules, location directions, lunch plans before, etc.

New Headquarters Hotel

The Blackburn Inn

Our reunion headquarters for Reunion 2020 will be the Blackburn Inn, 301 Greenville Avenue, Staunton, Virginia 24401. The web address is www.blackburn-inn.com. The phone number for reservations is (540) 712-0601.

For a limited time, we have a limited block of rooms reserved are getting these rooms at a special rate of $99.00. This rate will be good for reservations made now through 16 March 2020. After 16 March it will revert to the normal rate.

Our meeting area over the weekend will be the Penthouse Loft at the Blackburn Inn, complete with private elevator. This room is a descreet meeting area that can handle 60 people. It is complete with a roof top patio that looks over downtown Staunton. For anyone that wishes to bring snacks we have a full kitchen in the loft to store items. I tentatively plan to also use this room for Reunion 2020 registration, and our open bar will be located there for Friday and Saturday night. There will be a cash bar in the Loft for Thursday night open until 10:00pm.

THE BLACKBURN INN

At the time of this publication, standard Inn rates range from $135 (military rate) to $169 (standard rate), with discounts between these rates for advance reservations ($139), and AAA/Senior rates of $152.

Other nearby hotels include the Stonewall-Jackson hotel, Quality Inn and Suites, Tru by Hilton, and Fairfield Inn and Suites by Hilton, and several Bed and Breakfasts.

American Airlines

We wish to acknowledge and thank American Airlines, the official airline for Reunion 2020, for their very generous donation of air miles (points) to provide transportation for our guest speakers and two pairs of tickets for the raffle.

Book your next flight at aa.com

Reunion 2020 Guest Speaker

Our confirmed speaker Friday evening is Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Retired.

Casey was commissioned through the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 1970 following graduation from Georgetown University. He served as Commanding General, Multi-National Force – Iraq, from June 2004 to February 8, 2007, and was in the army for his entire adult working life.

Accomplishments:

- Chief of Staff of the United States Army
- Multi-National Force – Iraq
- Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army
- 1st Armored Division
- Joint Warfighting Center
- 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division

Some of his many Awards:

- Defense Distinguished Service Medal (4)
- Army Distinguished Service Medal (2)
- Legion of Merit (3)
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal

More information about General Casey can be found at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Casey_Jr.

Thursday, April 16

6:00 PM ..... **Opening Reception**
Ironwood Country Club
Cash bar

7:00 - 8:30 PM ..... **Dinner - Ironwood Country Club**

8:30 PM - Midnight ..... **Hospitality Suite open**
The Loft at the Blackburn Inn, Open Bar

Friday, April 17

8:00 AM ..... **Golfers Depart Blackburn Inn**
Waynesboro Country Club

8:30 AM ..... **Bus Tour Depart Blackburn Inn**
James Madison's Montpelier

9:00 AM ..... **Sporting Clay Shoot**
The Flying Rabbit, Harrisonburg

7:00 PM ..... **Banquet**
Blackburn Inn
Guest Speaker Gen. George W. Casey, Retired

9:00 PM - 12:00 ..... **Cash Bar**
The Loft at Blackburn Inn

Saturday, April 18

11:00 AM..... **Founders Day Ceremony**
Augusta Stone Church Cemetery

1:00 PM ..... **Lunch, AMA gym**

2:00 PM ..... **Annual Membership Meeting, AMA gym**

6:00 PM ..... **Bar Open**
Blackburn Inn

7:00 PM ..... **Dinner**
Blackburn Inn

8:00 - 11:00 PM ..... **Dance**
Stuart Hall Gymnasium

NOTE: The Blackburn Inn will be our meeting place this years.

Registration

Blackburn Inn, The Loft
The Hotel Registration desk can direct you to The Loft

Museum and PX:

Thursday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tower of Power

The most successful reunion fund raiser of all time.

Since 1998, beginning with **Frank Williamson, '60**, tickets for bottles of Virginia Gentleman and other top-shelf spirits have been raffled off at every reunion.

The name "Tower of Power" comes from the one special bottle being held for the last two alumni in a replica of the AMA tower, pictured at right.

It is estimated that the Tower of Power has raised in excess of $30,000 during reunions over the last 22 years. These funds have helped enable our museum fulfill its mission of preserving AMA's heritage for ours and future generations.

Friday's' Historic Tour, hosted by Frank Williamson, '60, takes us on a tour of the home of James Madison

Join us for a tour of our fourth President James Madison's home, Montpelier.

Our tour will depart the Blackburn Inn Friday morning. Admission and a deluxe box lunch is included in the $45 cost.

Please register for the tour online at https://amaalumni.org/reunion-2020/ or call the museum at 540-248-3007 to let them know you plan on joining the tour. We need a headcount as early as possible.

Faculty Interview

Tim Mannasmith

R. Tim Mannasmith is a widower living now in Harrisonburg with his dogs. He receives the ***Bayonet*** and keeps a lookout for cadets from his time at AMA. He has visited the museum, though not recently. He recently spoke with **Ed Click, '50**.

Tell me a little bit about yourself:

I graduated from the University of Michigan. I married a Harrisonburg girl, who is now deceased. I found that AMA needed a biology teacher and took took the job in 1967. I stayed until AMA closed in 1983.

What did you do during your tenure at AMA?

As a faculty member I taught science and consumer math. I coached tennis and succeeded Glenn Koogler as athletic director.

What are your favorite memories of Augusta?

I remember some of my favorite cadets who proved very successful later on, such as **Larry Nicholson, '75**, and **Steve Trent, '70**. Many cadets thrived in response to the AMA challenge. Many adopted new habits and goals. Many learned to adapt socially and to perform well independently of their families.

Do you have any regrets about AMA?

I regret the closure of AMA as it denied many young men the opportunity to prove (or improve) themselves before entering college. AMA helped many, and its closure denied that opportunity to an unknown number who might have benefited, even though Fishburne and Massanutten are still in business.

Tim Mannasmith is an honorary Ad Astra.

Mannasmith said that he had "*clipped a Daily Record newspaper article about* ***Leon Armentrout, '75****, and his success in training herding dogs, but one of my own dogs ate the clipping!"*

"And I thought that dogs only ate homework papers!"

Major Tim Mannasmith and his wife enjoy the midday brunch provided by Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Gordon in their new Fort home. '73 RECALL

Faculty members Tim Mannasmith (left) and Bill Lobb enjoy renewing relationships with each other and with former students during the 2019 Reunion Thursday evening.

Don Studer Remembers …

Ever since I can recall I have been overly concerned with being on time and I still am. It may have started at a Catholic Elementary School, but it was surely reinforced in the Military.

For every appointment, gathering or getting a job done, I am always happy to get there 30 minutes early rather than 1 minute late. Finishing jobs days early is better for me than waiting till the last minute ... I live by the rule "if you're 15 minutes early you're still 10 minutes late" !!!

Soon after becoming the Rifle Team Coach at AMA I found several things that needed changing.

One was the responsibilities placed on the Team Manager. He was responsible for ensuring that all gear was brought to an away match ... meaning the shooters gear, my gear, ammo … everything.

The change I instilled was that the manager was now only responsible for ensuring that ***my gear*** was loaded and accompanied us on the trip. This included taking the scope, ammo & other small items that we might need.

Thus, it became the new rule, that every shooter was now responsible to take everything he would need for the match … which included his rifle, jacket, sling, glove, shooting mat, glasses and all of his individual gear.

OK, so I was a hard ass. Yet, we reside in a military academy that teaches discipline, leadership and education. So, why not teach a little responsibility, along the way !!

Now, to get back to being on time, the exact departure time was set and given to each shooter as well as the OD, a full day before an away match. It was understood that if you were not prepared to go, and were not sitting in the vehicle, my van would leave without you.

This was seldom necessary as everyone wanted to leave campus and travel to other schools.

It was also understood that after a match the van would depart on a specific time to return to the AMA Campus. Again, if you were not present, sitting in the vehicle and ready to travel with the team, you could find your own way back. This also never became a problem.

However, I recall a time when a problem did arise. It was on those occasions when we stopped for a snack along the way back.

If we were returning to the Academy from the North we would stop in Harrisonburg. If we were coming from the South, we'd stop in Waynesboro. It was during these stops that there often a few stragglers.

At the time of this particular problem, we had stopped in Waynesboro. It was rather late and I set a strict time for leaving. I also indicated precisely where the Van would be parked so there would be limited confusion. As the time of departure arrived … and seeing fewer team members in the back than normal … I started the van and proceeded to slowly pull out of the parking lot and onto Main Street. A quick glance in my side view mirror yielded several Cadets waving their arms and running towards the Van, as fast as they could.

As I kept the van creeping slowly down Main Street, I heard the back rear doors open, and yells from inside the back saying…"*come on…come on...hurry up*". There were even a few repeated pleas aimed towards the front saying… "*Coach, they're coming*". After another minute or so, the straggling cadets tumbled into the back of the van, the doors were closed, the van gained speed and we headed back to AMA.

Without uttering a word, the point was made ... no comment about the tardiness was necessary and the incident was never discussed. The best part was the result … from that day on, stragglers at rest stops were non-existent … even from future teams as I can only assume the story of "***Coach leaving you stranded if you're not on time***" followed from year to year.

Somewhat proud that I'd "stuck to my threat, made a point and accomplished it with no injuries or fanfare", I went to my part-time job the next day at ***Hasslet Gun Supply*** in Waynesboro.

To my surprise, a customer stepped up to the counter later that morning and asked … "*Was I mistaken, or did I see a few AMA cadets chasing after your van last evening?*"

I offered a brief, targeted and simple explanation. It was received with complete understanding and approval.

Don has a softer side, as this Reunion 2000 photo shows

Sports Hall of Fame Nominees

The following graduates were submitted for consideration as inductees into AMA Sports Hall of Fame:

- George Richardson, '64
- Major Edwin Hart
- Charles R. Livick, '77

To be nominated in and of itself is a great honor. Final evaluation and voting is underway and the results will be announced on 20 March 2020.

George Richardson, '64, attended AMA for two years (1962-1964), being from Newport News, Virginia.

He was on the football, swimming, baseball and track teams. George was a very talented individual, shown by the fact that he lettered in all four sports! He was the fastest guy on the football team, going both ways in several position – the "utility man". And he was recognized as one of the best punters in the Military School League! George was the #1 diver on the Swim Team; and in the spring, he double-timed back and forth between the baseball field and the trackwhere he was the best sprinter in the 100 yd dash, throwing the shot-put, and started in center-field. George was a truly special and gifted athlete!

He was also on the Roller Rifles, his senior year.

Major Edwin Hart was a teacher and guidance counselor from 1961 until 1976. During that time, he was the Head Lacrosse Coach (1962-1973). He was also the assistant coach for the 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965 Varsity Football Teams.

He was an All American lacrosse player at Hobart College, and then commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in the Pacific during World War II. His career followed as a New York City Policeman, before coming to AMA.

Major Hart was an amazing coach and leader, who brought out the best in his players. And overall lacrosse coaching record was 47-45, albeit not having a post-graduate program. But, he had a combined record of 42 wins and 22 losses against Virginia Private School League (VPSL) schools. His 1969-70 team finished first place in the VPSL with a record of 7-2; the 1970-71 team placed second in the League with a 8-4 record; then the 1971-72 team coming back and finishing first place with a record of 7-1! The 1971-72 Lacrosse Team was voted Best Team for the athletic year. He coached All American **Jim Stillwagon, '67**, and fellow Sports Hall of Famers' **Nick Syropoulos, '69, Al Zayas, '72,** and **LTG(R) Larry Nicholson, '75**! His work in popularizing this great game is still in evidence today.

Major Hart passed away in June 1999.

Charles (Charlie) Livick, '77, attend AMA from childhood, and initially was "day" student. For his last two years, he lived in the barracks. He played football, basketball and lacrosse, and was truly a gifted athlete. In football, he played on both sides of the ball, was a co-captain and the defensive most valuable player (MVP) in 1976 and 1977! He anchored the defense, that realized 1975-76 AND 1976-77 Virginia Independent Conference (VIC) Football Championships! The 1975-76 team went undefeated: 6-0! On the basketball court, Charlie played for four years, and he co-captained the team finishing runner-up for the 1976-77 VIC Basketball Championship. He played two years on the lacrosse team and anchored the defense. Charlie was the AMA Cadet Battalion Executive Office, and was Executive Officer of the Roller Rifles, his senior year.

Charlie Livick passed away in November, 2014.

Induction into the Sports Hall of Fame will be during the Annual Reunion, on the weekend of 16-19 April 2020. The ceremony will take place during lunch at the gym on Saturday, 18 April 2020.

You are encouraged to attend the 2020 Reunion and join in honoring these individuals.

Saturday Night Dance at Stuart HALL

We, the Stuart Hall class of 1970 "***Ain't to Proud to Beg***" all AMA guys and dates to "***Dance to the Music***" and "***Boogie Tonight***" to the music of the **Rise Band and Show**.

"***What's Going On***"? You might have "***Heard it Through the Grapevine***", although it "***Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing***", Stuart Hall is having a Reunion Dance and it's not "***Just My Imagination***" ... this is for real.

"***I'll be There***" cause there "***Ain't no Mountain High Enough***" to keep me from getting to Stu.

Time: 8:00 - 11:00 pm
Place: Stuart Hall Gym 235 W. Frederick St. Staunton, VA
Admission: $15/person to cover wine, beer and snacks provided by Stuart Hall.

NO BYOB per SH regulations

Music to be provided by the Rise Band and Show.
https://musicgardenbands.com/rise-band-and-show.html

AMA Alumnus **Rick Smail, '67**, contributed $25,000 to the Gary Sinise Foundation in honor of the alumni of Augusta Military Academy who placed country before self and served in one of the armed services of the United States.

His gift will be directed towards building a specially adapted smart home for U.S. Marine Corp SSGT Jonathan Blank.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Jonathon Blank gets a kiss from his girlfriend, Brittney Harris, at the Midway Community Center in Midway on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. Blank was announced Thursday as a recipient of a specially adapted smart home to be built in Midway by the Gary Sinise Foundation and its partners. (Spenser Heaps, KSL)

10 year MEB Reunion

To My AMA Alumni Brothers

No mere words can express the appreciation I have for the steadfast support you have provided to me over the last 16 years of combat deployments.

From my initial deployment to Fallujah, Iraq in 2004, through my time in recovery from combat wounds at Bethesda Naval Hospital, to the subsequent three additional year long combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, I have felt and been blessed to know my AMA teammates have been in direct support of me, my family, and our great Marines and Sailors as we served on point for our nation. From the hundreds of care packages originating from so many of your home towns, to **Bruce Hemp**'s mobilization of the Fort Defiance High School team to pack and ship vast amounts of food and supplies to the Middle East, I have and remain deeply indebted and incredibly appreciative of your support.

I especially appreciate the support you are currently providing to the 10th anniversary reunion of our Afghan Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) occurring at Quantico Virginia from 1-3 May of this year. Your incredible generosity is not only greatly appreciated, but will go a long way to ensuring we are able to gather many hundreds of Marines and Sailors who served under our nation's colors during the epic fight for Helmand Province Afghanistan in 2009-2010. Your incredible generosity is deeply appreciated once again by me and our Marines….

I, like you, am a proud alumnus of our amazing alma mater and look forward to thanking each of you personally in the valley during the April 2020 Alumni weekend. I cannot thank you enough for the decades of support and thank you once again for your eye watering support of me and YOUR United States Marines.

Semper Fidelis, Larry Nicholson Proud member of the Class of 1975

View promotional video by our own **Steve Barber, '78**, here: https://vimeo.com/392842058/0d2ac2ee11

Thursday Night Mixer

Our Thursday night kick off will remain at Ironwood Country Club. ***This is a great time to renew bonds with fellow cadets and instructors.*** It has also proved over the years to be one of the best meals to be had during the weekend. There is an hour of visiting in the cash bar followed by our meal.

It's a special time during the reunion. Please try to get to the valley in time to enjoy Thursday evening.

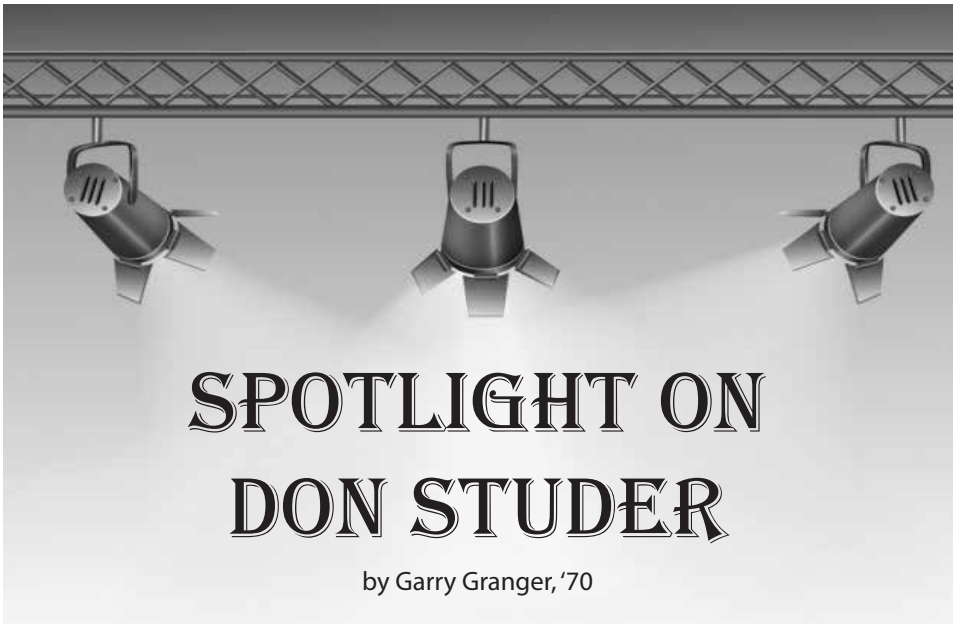
Scholarships will be awarded

As part of our mission, the AMA Alumni Foundation will award three scholarships during Reunion 2020.

The **Livick Scholarship** for $500 will be awarded to a deserving Fishburne Military School cadet. This scholarship is sponsored this year by **Jorge Rovirosa, '70**.

The **Foundation Scholarship** will be awarded to a Fishburne Military School cadet.

The Foundation will award the **McVey-Zinkhan Scholarship** to a descendant of an AMA alumnus.



SPOTLIGHT ON DON STUDER

by Garry Granger, '70

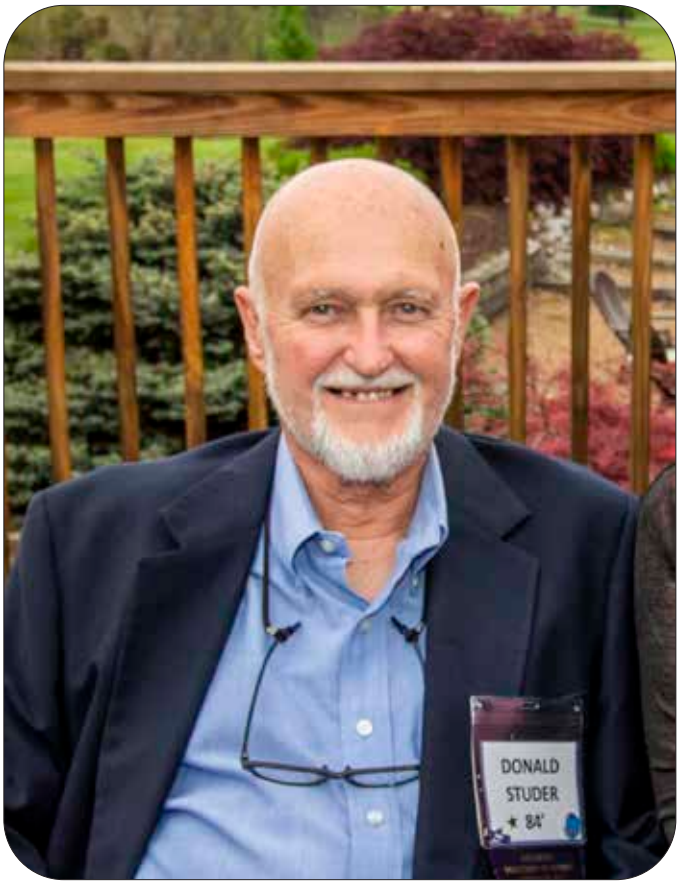
Teacher, Coach, Weapons Expert, Junior ROTC Instructor, Faculty Member, Marine, Soldier, Docent, Volunteer, Adventurer… Friend

Few (if any) among the ranks of our Academy are unfamiliar with Don Studer, known as Sergeant, Sarge or Coach to most, yet friend to all, with a thirst for knowledge, adventure, and shooting.

Master Sergeant Donald Studer spent 3 years in the USMC, was a civilian for almost 3 years, then re-entered the US Armed Services in the Army for a 17 year stint. Two tours in Vietnam, stationed in California, Okinawa, Washington State, North Carolina, Panama, New Jersey and Virginia.

While on his first Tour of Duty in Viet Nam, one of his Squad Leaders recommended that he volunteer for an ROTC assignment on his "Dream Sheet." Thank goodness for us that that dream came true!

Three different times he was stationed at AMA, two years on assignment with the Army in 1970 & 71 School years. Then again for four years during the 1976-79 school years, and then, after his retirement from the Army, in 1981, Don was hired to assist in AMA's Commandant's office as well as be an instructor.



Sergeant Studer remained at AMA until our Academy closed in January 1984.

Don's experience with students was also utilized at the General Douglas MacArthur Military Academy where he was on assignment with the Army as an ROTC Senior Instructor from 1972-1975, He left DMMA when that Academy closed its doors.

After AMA closed he coached the rifle team at Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro and Miller School in Crozet, VA.

While his accomplishments are numerous and remarkable, Sergeant Studer shares the ambition found in other AMA Faculty – having a focus in life to help nurture and develop young minds.

Surely it's a special person who takes the time energy and joy to help raise youngsters. Some of us alumni knew how special we were to have these incredible "role models." And yet most of us had no idea the impact these instructors would have on our lives until much later.

I know it wasn't until years after I walked out the front gate in 1971 that I realized just how fortunate we were to be influenced by the likes of champions named: **Roller, Hoover, Savedge, Koogler, Hart, Livick, Dekel, Christy, Hutton, Studer, Josephson, Manasmith, Rapp, Dillow, Suarez, Canavet,**

Bradford and many more…

While it's an unfavorable idea to start listing names, I remain steadfast that these men and women as well as numerous others played a positive role in the development of many AMA Cadets.

Don Studer, 1975 RECALL

In August of 1958, Don departed his home in Chicago for USMC boot camp and returned from boot camp about 12 weeks late rin early November. Taking a cab from the airport, he knocked on the door of his home, a stranger answered and he asked "*Who are you?*" She asked. "*Who are you?*" He said "*I live here.*" She said, "*No you don't. I moved into this house two weeks ago.*"

Now I don't know about you, but I would have felt a bit of abandonment, After getting the address of his family's new home some 8 miles away, he took another cab. He walked to the door and could see his father asleep on the sofa.

After knocking with no response, he went to the back door and knocked with the same results.

His father being awakened by the noise got up and seeing no one at the front door, he went to the back door. Meanwhile, Don returned to the front door, knocked again and upon seeing his Dad no longer on the sofa, Don quickly ran to the back door to find an angry father who was half asleep and wondering who is disturbing him.

Yet, elated to find his uniformed son back from boot camp, Euerka !!! My boy is back !!

It seems the mail telling Don that the family had moved hadn't reached him at boot camp.

Don lost his mother soon after he was discharged from the USMC and the family relocated to Arizona where his father bought a restaurant & bar.

After living & working in Arizona for a short while with his father and two sisters, Don decided to re-enter the USMC only to be told he had to start over and go through boot camp. NOT wanting to make that journey again, he spoke with an Army recruiter who said he could join them and only take two weeks of boot camp and be on his way. DEAL !!

Don Studer and Joe Josephson, 1971 RECALL

During his 20 years in the Marines and the Army, his assignments included Camp Pendleton, CA; Okinawa; Japan, Fort Ord, CA; Fort Lewis, WA; Fort Bragg, NC; two (2) tours of duty in Vietnam; Baumholder, Germany; Fort Benning, GA; Two tours of duty at Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance,VA; General Douglas MacArthur Institute in Mount Freedom, NJ and his final assignment was in Ft. Kobbe, Panama.

Some of his Military awards:

- **Bronze Star Medal with "V" & 2 Oak Clusters,**
- **Army Commendation Medal**
- **Good Conduct Awards – USMC & US Army**
- **Combat Infantry Badge**
- **Drill Sergeant Identification Badge**

Don's life surrounds shooting. He's an avid shooter and goes to the range as often as he can.

He is a Certified Rifle & Pistol Instructor with the National Rifle Association (Life Long Member) and spent a great deal of time teaching Firearm Safety at Blue Ridge Community College.

He also taught Personal Protection Classes for Recreation & Parks in Augusta County, Staunton and Waynesboro.

He's competed in Small Bore Rifle and High Power Rifle competitions in VA and PA. He's also competed in Small Bore and Big Bore Silhouette matches and Field Pistol events.

Staying true to his desire to teach, Don was an Instructor and County Coordinator for Hunter Education in Augusta County with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for almost 30 years.

In 2005, his dedication to Hunter Education earned him the prestigious Morgan Award.

Don was instrumental as a founder and manager at the 4-H Shooting Sports Club in Augusta County where over 500 local children were introduced to Firearm Safety Procedures and Shooting Fundamentals.

He has been a member of the Blue Ridge Shooters Club, Rivanna Rifle & Pistol Club, the American Legion & VFW, Isaac Walton League of Harrisonburg and the Waynesboro Moose Lodge.

Don loves "Folk Lore" and Western Songs & Stories and is an avid fan and friend of the remarkable songwriter/performer Dolan Ellis. Dolan was once a member of the New Christy Minstrels and has been strumming his guitar and singing about Arizona for more than 5 decades. Dolan is Arizona's Official State Balladeer.

At the AMA Museum, Sargent Studer was instrumental in helping organize, catalogue and obtain information about every cadet, faculty member and staff associated with our beloved Academy.

He helped research, set up and organize museum displays and has pulled Docent Duty more times than we can count.

He helped orchestrate and manage our annual reunions and helped re-train the "Old Guys Roller Rifles" before their final formation in 2009.

For years Don and his close friend **Ben Zinkhan, '60**, were the backbone of our beloved museum and were usually the faces seen when touring the museum & grounds.

In 2009 Don was inducted into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame for his selfless focus as the Rifle Team Instructor.

Don Studer (front row right) - 1975 rifle team - 1975 RECALL

That same year, he fulfilled a life-long dream to tour the states. He purchased a 26' RV, hooked up his car to the back and started another incredible journey.

His extensive RV travels after retirement took him to the lower 48 states several times covering more than 300,000 miles.

During these eleven (11) years he visited more than a hundred museums as well as some 50 Military Bases. Many of you will recall the "journals" he would email along with pictures of museums, wildlife and nature about his travels, all remarkable and interesting! Don kept a highway atlas, where he highlighted each leg of his journeys and noted the date next to each place he visited.

During his first assignment at AMA, cadet **Van Rametta '70,** influenced Don with his organizational and coaching skills and helped Don with expectations during a shooting match.

Don made it a point to say he never thanked Van enough for his influence and assistance – sometimes the student teaches the teacher.

Since his beloved sister, Kel, passed in 2019, Don has slowed his travel some and is growing roots in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

He's unable to attend R2020 because he has had a longtime desire to witness the blooming of the wild flowers in the Arizona Desert and will be fulfilling that dream/adventure.

He'll surely be missed.

Garry Granger, '70: *"Don, thank you for your instruction, for your camaraderie, your leadership, your patience, for caring, for your wit, your numerous hours of dedication to our museum, your wisdom and most of all, thank you for your friendship."*

Tom Del Valle '73, wrote- "*As*

you get older and you realize there is more time of your life behind you than there is in front of you….it's worth taking stock in your accomplishments and the people in that inner circle that helped you get there. I count Sgt. Studer as one of those rare individuals. Don is predictable and consistent and a friend I have come to value more and more as the years go by… A true gentlemen, an honorable man

Don Studer, 1971 RECALL

I'm been privileged to call my coach and my friend."

Andy Becker '71, writes "*I knew Sgt. Studer was aware and I respected the fact that he let me get away with a lot and put up with my shenanigans. He was a great coach, more importantly he was a really great friend to all the cadets* "

Mike Kidd '72, was quoted as saying "*Don was ALWAYS respected by every team member. Although we were boys, he treated us like men and didn't play favorites. He eternally treated us with respect. I struggle to find the words to describe the respect I have for him. I NEVER heard him raise his voice – whenever you screwed up you'd get "**the look**" and perhaps some counseling and that was his way of getting results. He was Sgt. Studer to me, never Don or Sarge…and always will be".*

Bill Hummer '71, writes – "*My brief two years at AMA turned out to be amazing and life changing for me. I was not doing at all well in public school or at home with my new "stepfather". Unlike so many of you though, I'm sorry to say that I have little to no recollection of any of my "teachers" there. However, I would have to say that Sgt. Studer turned out to be probably the biggest, most important and influential adult of my life at the time (or ever).*

"He cared; he made me a better person than I was for sure. I guess you could say he saved me from myself. I will owe him a debt of gratitude forever.

"Without him there's no telling where or how I may have turned out. I couldn't have hoped for a better role model.

"Thank you so much Sarge! I'm forever grateful!"

Mike Payne '76, writes – "*In 1975 & 76, I had the honor & privilege of shooting for Don "Coach" Studer while at AMA. But to me he was much more than a coach. He was my mentor, confidant, consultant and role model. I have always respected his knowledge and work ethics, enjoyed his humor and admired his dedication. While at AMA I had a gift for getting into trouble and walked more than my share of tours. I credit "Coach" for being instrumental in helping me turn my life around and making me who I am today. Not only did he give me a good foundation in marksmanship, but in life as well. I am proud to call him my friend and can't thank him enough for what he has done for me."*

B.J. d'Orsay, '70: *"Although I had little occasion to interact with Don while I was at AMA, I did have many, many hours working with Don over the last decade. Don was one of the dozen or so individuals that could be characterized as dedicated to the well being of the AMA mission to preserve its history and legacy. Don spent years volunteering on a daily basis at the museum, and when not doing that he was undoubtedly the number one volunteer to help organize Reunions. Living across the country, Don would drive into Fort Defiance weeks before reunions to help wherever he was needed. There was no job too small or too large for Don to take on."*

AMAalumni.org

Our website has been upgraded and moved to a new service provider.

This enhancement will allow us to proceed with a more robust secure environment to present ourselves to the public and preserve our history and heritage far into the foreseeable future.

There will be no more redirects to a contest winning announcement when you visit our website now.

If you stopped visiting our site because of this annoyance, please revisit AMAalumni.org

“Stride” Coleman

LARRY KEITH “STRIDE” COLEMAN of Fayetteville, NC passed away unexpectedly at Cape Fear Valley Hospital on Thursday, 12 December 2019. He was born on 26 December 1950 in Littlefield, Texas.

Stride retired from the U.S. Army in September 1992 at Ft. Bragg, NC His tours of duty include Vicenza, Italy, Ft. Campbell, KY, and Ft. Bragg, NC. His awards include Southwest Asia Service Medal w/bronze service star-2, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia, Parachute Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Overseas service Medal-2, Army Achievement Medal, Overseas Service Medal-2, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Bronze Service Star and Meritorious Service Medal. He was also employed in Kuwait with a DOD contract for 12 months.

Stride was someone you would never forget the first time you met him. His humor was extraordinary. He enjoyed skeet shooting and fishing with his Pee Dee River Wild Asses and spending time with his family in Texas and numerous friends in NC and VA. His most famous quote to folks was “Quit Bullshitten”.

Stride was an alumni member of Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance, VA, Phoenix Lodge #8 and the Sudan Shriners.

He had two special friends, **Sergeant Scott** and **Mark Smith**.

*“This is **Donna**, Stride’s sister. I want to take the time before his phone is disconnected to tell all of you how grateful we are for all your prayers and concerns for my Brother.*

“Everyone has a story about Stride, and my family has many, but i want to share a couple with ya’ll.

This year Stride wanted the addresses of all my grandkids. He said he wanted to send them a birthday card from him, and he did with a fifty dollar bill in each one !!! He loved them all.

“He was asking my youngest grandson, Case, how he liked school, (7 yr old) and his daddy said he liked it real well especially the lunchroom, because he owes them money. Case takes his lunch and also eats in the lunchroom !!! SO MY BROTHER asks how much he is in to the MESS HALL ... His dad said 20.00 bucks. So my brother gives Case twenty dollar bill and tells him to go get square with the mess hall ladies ..lol. We will always remember that.

“Words cannot express the sadness we feel, but we have a lot of very precious memories.

“If you have a special memory, feel free to share it with us. Tell it like it is, we are used to his military “way of saying.”

“God bless all of you.”

Donna and family

Beky Kennett: I’ve known him all my life. He will be dearly missed. Definitely a rascal

Michael L Kidd. ‘72: Can still see him walking down the stoop wearing his cowboy boots! He was a good officer at AMA and a good friend. As I’ve said before. I will always remember him walking,correction , Striding down the stoops at AMA with his cowboy boots clicking away. See ya when I see ya my brother. God bless my brother !!

John Henderson, ‘69: RIP Stride I will always remember you, your big friendly smile and that 6 foot stride of yours. Stride was one of the most genuine people I’ve ever known. I recall asking him where are you from he replied Mule Shoe Texas! As a cadet waiter he had the longest stride I’ve ever seen, and you could hear him coming! Stride was as big as life itself and funny, omg he was funny! Always polite and filled with kindness for the average fellow! I can see his face right now I do not need a photo to see him. Stride you were a good man and a friend to many! Thank you for your Military service and the kindness to your fellow man ! RIP and God keep You Stride!

Jorge P. Rovirosa, ‘70: Stride was as unique as they come. A loyal and kind friend full of fun and laughter and lastly a true AMA brother. He is missed and will never be forgotten.

Sergeant Scott, Stride's best friend, held a memorial ceremony to grant Stride's wishes to have some of his ashes spread around a tree at Sicily Drop Zone on Ft. Bragg on 1/20/2020. Stride's sister, Donna, said, "Very special and emotional ceremony in honor of my brother Stride, performed by Sgt Scott fulling the wishes of my brother who wanted to be cremated and his ashes scattered over Sicily Drop Zone. All of his very close friends were there. It was a very special ceremony Sgt Scott . All of you honored my brother in fulfilling his wishes. Love all of you so much."

God speed, Stride !! Rest in Peace Stride ! Thank for your service to the Nation and your loyalty to the AMA brotherhood!

Baxter Hayes, '70: I too remember Stride. He seemed larger than life. That certainly make sense being that he was a Texan.

Sandy Nelson: The river trips to the Pee Dee he will be missed by more people that you know will never be the same without Stride L Coleman.

Lanna McRae: His spirit and love for life will be missed. His laugh and those darn ranger panties he always wore.

Ed Rogerville, '76: A few years ago, Stride was awarded "The AMA Medal" in recognition of his faithful service to our Alumni Association. He was so pleased he came to tears. Someone said, "relax, it's not The Medal of Honor". His response was "to me it is"! He was all heart and love. RIP Brother.

Alfredo Zayas, '72: I had the Honor and Privilege of attending AMA along with Stride for all of my 3 years at AMA. During these 3 years I was always in Stride's Company. My last year, I was a Senior, and was the Platoon Sgt. for Co. B. After spring break we all came back from vacation and then realized that our First Sgt. was not returning to school. He then told me that I was the new 1St Sgt. Well, that did not go over too well with Maj. Dillow our Commandant, and I told Stride what was happening. He pulled me into his room and said, Bye golly ZAYAS, you don't move from here until I straighten out this Major. So I sat on his bed for about 15 minutes and then he walked into the room and said, ZAYAS, you are my First Sergeant and don't let anyone tell you nothing different!!!!
Stride was a Friend, a Brother and a Gentleman!!!! and in my mind he will always be remembered as such a person!! Later on he told me that Major Dillow wanted a First Sergeant that was younger so he could be trained into Officer Material for the next school year. And he would have none of that, and he let Maj. Dillow know and walked out of his office. That was the Gentleman I will always remember!!! Rest In Peace my Brother!!!!!

Roxie Rosemeier: Stride had an amazing personality and such a kind heart! I had the privilege to meet Stride when I worked at Holiday Inn for about 5 years, where he came every year with his friends. I always knew when he arrived because you could hear him in the lobby because that was just Stride haha. I always looked forward to seeing him. He always inspired me and talked me through the rough spots I was going through in life and always said " keep your head up darlin!" He is going to be missed by so many!!

Bud Oakey, '70: I don't have much in the way of stories but rather experiences. When at AMA, I was a youngster who just lost his Dad. Because I was close to Ricky and Lewie, Stride had my back and always a friendly word to boost me along when he saw me on the stoop. After moving on to RMA, on visits back to Virginia and going to the Ellett's place on SML, Stride was usually there. Again, always welcoming like you never missed a beat. Later in life, reconnecting with all from AMA, the same. Loved hanging out at the back of his pickup truck, did not matter the discussion I have always been the little one looking up to him.

Douglas W. Pennock, '72: "Ranger UDT!", "The good Lord willing and the creek don't rise", "HOWDY!!!!", "Damned straight!",
"Oh Hell Yea!!",

All of these ***Strideisims*** were always spoken at Stride's 100 plus decible tone..
A real deal buddy and an honorable and very caring and sensitive human being.
I will miss my friend.

Bill Scarborough, '69: Stride and I were very good buddies. So good we shared the lowest point of our AMA days together. We shared a lot of laughs over it for years following. When I tried to connect with AMA brothers around 1992 it was Stride I went looking for, he could never hide. Thanks for the memories brother, I look forward to making more with you on your side.

Paul Karch, '79: We loved Stride and he will always be remembered.

Dorothy Stephenson: I am so thankful to have met Stride through the Augusta Military Academy reunions. The first reunion I met him, I thought "I'm coming back next year just to hear this guy." He kept me in stitches most of the time. A equally hilarious and honorable, one-of-a-kind character. I'm glad to have known you, and I look forward to being entertained by your quick wit again one day. Until then, rest easy, Stride.

Stephen Trent, '70: Truly a one of a kind. Some people are similar but, No One Is Like Stride L Coleman. A true character from the beginning to the end. Total loyalty to his friends , AMA and his country and seriously superb soldier.

Mike Payne, '76: I will truly miss my dear old friend and I'm not bullshitten either.

Stan Mcdonald, '72: I do not very often share things like this, but this is an exception to an exceptional individual.

I received word a few days ago that a friend of mine that I went to high school with passed away after a brief illness. I know that we all die, and I know that no one gets out of this life alive, but this one shocked me. His name was Larry Coleman, but everyone knew him as "Stride" and he was as unique of an individual as I have ever known.

I went to a military academy in Virginia from 1969 to 1972. Stride was an old cadet and I was a new cadet, but we struck up a friendship because we were both from Texas and liked The Cowboys. He was one of the nicest people I have ever known in my life, with a great heart and caring for other people. He was funny and could just crack you up in an instant. He spent a life in the army serving his country and was as genuine as anyone you would ever know. He never put on airs or belittled or looked down on anyone or anything. He was someone who actually made the world a better place just for being in it, and will surely miss him.

Mark Smith, '76: As STRIDE would say Top of the line!! He truly was.

Bruce Hemp: Words can't really describe Stride! He was definitely a character!

Donald Malnati, '72: Really sorry to hear of Stride's passing. My condolences to all who were his close friends. I can still here his 'yodel' calling out steps in a parade ...

Donna Elder, stride's sister, proudly holds a photo of her brother and wears his reunion name tag

"Stride"

A *Real* Straight shooter!

A *Real* Officer & Gentleman!!

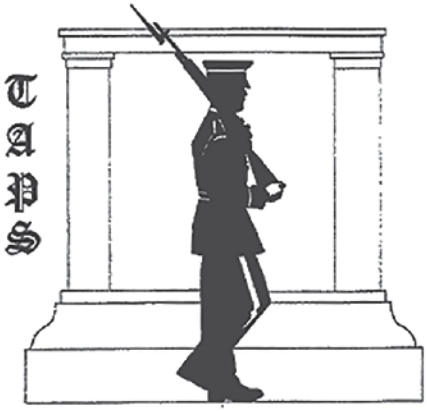
A *Real* Soldier of God!!!

Those fortunate enough that met Stride,

were in the presence of a *Real* **LEGEND**.

Godspeed Cader Airborne.

~ Roberto Gomez Pellerano, '69



Please report deaths of
AMA Alumni,
Faculty and Friends to the
AMA Museum
P. O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437
540-248-3007
Museum@AMAalumni.org

Some of the following TAPS entries are catchup, meaning these cadets may have passed away years ago, and we were just notified. We were also unable to obtain obituaries for many of these. We mean no disrespect for abbreviated notices.

Howard Harner, '55

Howard Wert Harner, Jr., 83, of Staunton, died Wednesday, January 29, 2020, at Augusta Health, Fishersville. Throughout his entire life, Howard followed his ardent passion for history, exploring Civil War battlefields and army encampments, hiking historic mountain trails, and metal detecting relics long lost.

At AMA, Howard graduated a three year cadet, First Sergeant in "A" Company was a member of the Roller Rifles and the movie projectionist.

Mitch Gaston, '60

Mitch spent two years at AMA, participating in Tennis, Swimming, and Lacrosse. He was a good student, spending both years on the honor roll.

Thomas Lee Mudd, '60

Thomas passed away 1/14/2018. At AMA, Tom graduated after five outstanding years. He rose to the rank of Captain of "HQ" company. He played football, was a member of the Roller Rifles two years, in the Drama group, a Student Body Officer, on the Honor Committee and in the Cotillion Club

John Hipp, '64

John Hipp was another five year cadet, who rose to the rank of Captain after just four of those years. Active in sports, he participated in JV football, basketball, and baseball. He spent 4 years on the Roller Rifles, was on the Honor Committee, a Student Body Officer, and Final Ball president.

Vaughn Jones, '64

Vaughn spent three years at AMA before moving on. His last year he was in the second platoon of "E" Company. Like many cadets, little is known of Vaughn's time at AMA. But we acknowledge him as one of our own.

John W. Pierpoint, '66

John spent just one year at AMA as a Day Student, yet it was enough. John was active with our FaceBook groups, so he must have had fond memories. He was on the swim team.

Bill Baeder, '69

Bill passed away December 21, 2019.

During his three years at AMA, Bill played Lacrosse, Varsity Football and fenced. He was on the Roller Rifles.

Larry "Stride" Coleman, '72

Stride passed away December 12, 2019 after a brief illness. Stride spent 6 years at AMA. He was on the Roller Rifles five of those years; Ad Astra his last two years. He was on the Honor Committee and had best Platoon and Company his fourth year. He graduated as Captain of "A" Company.

See a memorial for Stride on page 18.

Doug Pennock, '72, **Peter Vallone, '60**, and **Jorge Rovirosa, '70**, met at Jorge's home in Big Canoe, Georgia.

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
- Ad Astra Per Aspera -
The Gift Shoppe at
The Museum of Augusta Military Academy

Shop your on-line PX/Gift Shoppe at shop.amaalumni.org
We have nearly 50 products, including many AMA branded apparel, locally produced food items, and gift items.

Honoring the class of 1970

We have 94 members of the class of 1970: those that last attended AMA in 1970, those that graduated in 1970, and those that returned for a post grad year in 1970.

We are in contact with 61 of these. 17 of our classmates have passed. 26 are classified as "Unknown" meaning we don't know anything about them, if they are still living, or where they live. These 26 unknowns are an unacceptable number. It is up to each of us to begin searching for these alumni and find them, and bring them back into the fold.

Reunion Registration

There are several ways to register for Reunion 2020

Our website (AMAalumni.org/reunion-2020/) has links to a printable registration form which you can print, fill out, and mail to the museum with a check.

It also has a link to an online registration form to fill out and make payment through PayPal.

Finally, you can contact the museum directly at 540-248-3007 or museum@AMAalumni.org

Unknowns

Terry Abrams
Sergio D. Astorga
Robin L. Bender
Daniel J. Caldarelli
Dennis F. Dixon
Donald F. Fitzgerald
William M. Furr
James J. Goate
Timothy F. Hann
Baxter Hayes
Willis H. Jenkins
D. A. Randal Johnson
John Jay Johnson
Deane A. Lake
Marc P. Lambert
Gregory T. Marsteller
Jeffrey D. Peck
Robert W. Perkins
John B. Porcher
Francisco J. Saenz
Jorge A. Saenz
Terence R. Smith
Albert J. Stanko
Martin L. Story
Stephen B. Watkins
Lawrence W. Wilson

Deceased

Robert P. Echols
Jose G. Gutierrez
Lee M. Hall
George R. Harris
Thomas M. Hennessy
Joseph Ireland
Michael F. Lagosky
Fred L. Lapish
Keith May
Charles O. Minor
Gary Nicholson
Bill Parkins
John A. Piazza
Richard A. Pressly
Martin D. Ross
Alberto D. Sotomayor
John N. West

Known Alumni

William M. Broere
James H. Brown
Harry Campbell
Jerry Collincini
Bobby D. Crozier
B. J. d'Orsay
John B. Foster
Randy W. Frey
Donald L. Gable
Charles R. Ginns
Roberto M. Gomez
Robert A. Gooch
Harman F. Groves
Ronald L. Guilliams
Raul Juan Gutierrez
Tim Heath
Mark Hillsman
Jeffery R. Jackard
James A. Johnson
William C. Klunk
Brent E. Lethaby
Keith E. Lobach
Ray Marcantoni
John J. McGraw
Ron Melcher
Lawrence T. Milano
Robert M. Mitchell
Van T. Rametta
Turner A. Ramey
Bruce N. Reyngoudt
Paul D. Ritchey
Jorge Rovirosa
Peter Russell
Ray Snapp
Roy A. Stauffer
Dale M. Tewksbury
Stephen G. Trent
Wayne R. Trotter
Frederick J. Vasconi
Mark Vereen
Tommy Walker
Jeffrey Wenzel
Bruce B. Winstead
James A. Worley
James M. De Long
Joseph Gallehugh
Roland G. Hill
Douglas R. Mc Mullan
Harry A. Rubens
Brian C. Lethaby

Our ranks get smaller and smaller each year.

The fewer of us there are, the more imperative that we consider the future of our organization and the museum.

Every little bit you can contribute in effort or cash helps.

Retirement

Ed Click, '50, has announced his retirement from the AMA Foundation Board of Directors.

In his resignation letter, Ed commented, *"I appreciate your many courtesies and the opportunity you have given me to serve the Foundation. I admire your leadership and am especially pleased that you have Neil and his staffers to manage the Alumni House/Museum. They seem to be as pleased to be there as we are fortunate to have them. I hope to see all of you at the Annual Reunion and know that my replacement will be able to provide you with vigor that escapes me."*

Ed has served AMA throughout many years through his Board membership of both the Alumni Association and the Alumni Foundation, serving many yeas as secretary, treasurer, informal AMA historian, mentor to many of us, and friend to all of us.

During the museum's leadership transition in 2018, Ed was invaluable in keeping the museum operational and in assisting the new Director to settle into that position.

His historical knowledge of AMA and the surrounding community has answered innumerable questions posed by those of us who are not local to Fort Defiance.

Many Bayonet articles have been written about Ed. I encourage readers to find those by searching through the Bayonet Index at AMAalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/BayonetIndex.pdf

Ed Rogerville, AMA Alumni Foundation Chairman: *Ed has been an outstanding member of our organization for many years. His wisdom and demeanor will be missed.*

Doug Pennock, AMA Foundation Vice Chair: *I am saddened at Mr. Click's decision to retire from the Foundation Board but completely understand and respect his reason for doing so. Having said that, I wish Ed the best of everything and I am confident that although he may no longer be an active BOT member, we can count on his support, intellect and vast knowledge of our organization's history.*

Hasta la vista, my friend!

Replacement

LTG(R) Larry Nicholson, '75, will be replacing Ed click on the AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors

In accordance with Foundation By-Laws, and by unanimous decision of the Directors, the AMA Alumni Foundation appointed Larry to fill Ed Click's vacated position on the Board of Directors. Larry's term will expire in 2022.

Larry Nicholson, '75, and his wife Debbie at Reunion 2019

Ed Rogerville, '75: *"I'm pleased to announce the addition of Larry Nicholson to AMA Alumni Foundation Board of Directors. Larry's presence will have an immediate impact on our Board and our efforts to sustain AMA's legacy. Welcome aboard General!"*

John Arthur, '75: *I am very enthused that classmate LTG(Ret'd) Larry Nicholson '75 is joining us on the Foundation Board of Trustees. He will have an immediate impact on our organization, and the overall AMA Alumni "outlook". Welcome Aboard Larry!*

Frank Williamson, '60: *What a tremendous addition to our Board, not only Larry's patriotic service but additionally, his leadership qualities enhance the adaptation of his management skills. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with him.*

Tom Del Valle, '73: *In the last two years the Foundation Board of Trustees has been making great progress and is laser focused on our business plan and mission statement. Having a recent vacancy we are extremely excited to add a tremendous leader and good friend, retired LTG Larry Nicholson to the Foundation Board of Trustees. Welcome to the team Larry !!*

Doug Pennock, '72: *I am pleased that LTG (Ret) Larry Nicolson has accepted the challenge to join the AMA Foundation Board. As one of the more dynamic leaders that AMA helped form, I know that Larry's contributions to Board matters will be extremely helpful for us to move forward with our mission to protect our legacy. Welcome home Larry!*

The transformation of the Roller - Robinson House into the AMA Museum

(left and below) 21 years ago, at the beginning of the renovation process, Dean's Castle was still standing to the north of the house, as was the mess hall and connecting building on the left side of the house.

Both of these structures were removed at the time of the renovation to create the stand-alone building we know today as the AMA Museum.

Photos of the process are shown on the next few pages.

The result (left) was a completely rebuilt museum with all the amenities one would expect in a 21st century public museum, including ADA compliant access, public restroom, central air conditioning and heating, copper roof (will never need replacing), director's office, staff kitchen, archival storage room, work room, conference room, new concrete walkways replicating the originals, spacious green lawn at the front of the museum and over 1,000 sq ft of museum display space.

Memories discovered on Facebook

Don't do Facebook? Start now and join one of our Facebook groups to renew friendships with your classmates and make new friends from among AMA alumni and friends.

Doug Pennock was finally able to visit his '72 classmate Al Zayas at his home in Key Biscayne, Florida. Al has been going through some serious medical issues, but I was very happy to see him fit and upbeat! It's always great to catch up and wish an old buddy Happy New Year!

Bud Oakey was honored to be promoted to the Grade of Major in the @USAF Auxiliary, Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol during Wednesday's Veteran's Caucus hearing at the Virginia General Assembly. Promoting Officers included Caucus co-CC's, Senator Bryce Reeves and Delegate David Reid. Assisted by The Adjutant General of Virginia, MG Timothy Williams and VAWG Wong Commander, Col Dean Gould.

Norvell West posted this photo of the last four cadets entering the graduation ceremony in 1983. From left to right:
Norville West, Robert Steele, Marc Moore, Wayne Kreson

Norvell West's 1983 diploma was the last one conferred on an AMA Cadet.

This sketch of Stride, drawn by **Miguel Perez '75**, was given to the museum by the family. Miguel was a new cadet when this was sketched. Miguel was Battalion Commander in '75 and unfortunately died at an early age after graduation.

Attending Stride's funeral services were **Phil Bentley, '83, Brett Thompson, '75, Ed Rogerville, '76, Rick Ellett, '72,** and **Steve Trent, '70**.

Augusta Military Academy Museum Group is the official Facebook group of your AMA Alumni Foundation. Join us today!

While doing an estimate in Staunton, **Brett Thompson, '75**, just had to make a detour and visit Mom2, **Elaine Huffman**. I have known this great lady since 1974. Elaine was an administrative assistant at AMA and became a "Second Mom" to many cadets.

Bob Ash, '64, had a family meet up at the Museum. Jacob had spent a week at Bob's farm in West Virginia abd was on his way home in Winchester. They met Jacob's maternal grandmother, Pam Waybright (retired Marine D.I.) at AMA While there, he got this photo of him and Lucas, his grandson, at the cannon.

You may have noticed more and more birthday wishes on our Facebook groups.

Facebook has effectively replaced the "Class Notes" section of past Bayonets.

Join one of our facebook groups. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on among our alumni.

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Complete information and registration forms for Reunion 2020 can be found at our website, AMAalumni.org
Our website also contains legal information about our Association and Foundation, pdfs of several hundred Bayonets, School catalogs beginning from the 19th century when the school was still known as Augusta Male Academy, histories of the school and it's founder, Charles S. Roller, "The Professor", all known videos of cadet life, galleries of RECALLs and reunion photos, and much more.

This 1942 group photo was recently received at our museum, with no information about it. If you know anything, please contact the museum.